## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT 2012 TERM

Case No. 12-0729

In re: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

# BUREAU OF SECURITIES REGULATION'S MOTION TO RECUSE THE HON. JAMES BASSETT

NOW COMES Petitioner, the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation (the "Bureau" or the "Petitioner"), through counsel the New Hampshire Attorney General and Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A., and respectfully moves to recuse the Honorable James Bassett, Associate Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, from hearing and deciding the appeal of this matter. In support of this Motion, the Bureau states as follows:

1. Canon 2.11 of the Code of Judicial Conduct mandates judicial disqualification "in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned." Sup. Ct. R. 38, Canon 2.11. "The test for the appearance of partiality is an objective one, that is, whether an objective, disinterested observer, fully informed of the facts, would entertain significant doubt that justice would be done in the case." Miller v. Blackden, 154 N.H. 448, 456 (2006) (quoting Taylor-Boren v. Isaac, 143 N.H. 261, 268 (1998)). One of the articulated circumstances that may give rise to such a question is when the judge "was associated with a lawyer who participated substantially as a lawyer in the matter during such association." Sup. Ct. R. 38, Canon 2.11(A)(5)(a).

- 2. Prior to joining the bench, Justice Bassett practiced law at the firm Orr & Reno, P.A. for twenty-seven years, twenty-three of which he served as a shareholder and director.
- 3. Attorneys Michael Ramsdell, Joshua Pantesco, William Chapman, James Laboe, Jeremy Eggleton, Michael Cretella, and Government Relations Director, Bonnie Packard, all practicing at Orr & Reno and associated with Justice Bassett, provided legal representation to Respondent John Andrews, former executive director of Respondent Local Government Center (the "LGC"), in this matter.
- 4. During their representation and defense of Andrews, Ramsdell and Pantesco worked in tandem with counsel for the LGC, essentially forming a cohesive defense team. This joint effort continued until April 30, 2012, when Andrews reached an agreement with the State, whereby the State dismissed him as a respondent in exchange for his testimony.
- 5. According to billing statements for the period October 2011 through February 2012 obtained through a right to know request, Orr & Reno, of which Justice Bassett was a senior partner, billed Andrews \$145,000 in legal fees for its representation. See Exhibit A, attached hereto. The billing statements reflect that the board of directors for the LGC, Inc. had to expressly approve the payments made to Orr & Reno and that the LGC paid these bills.
- 6. Because of his prominent role at Orr & Reno, Justice Bassett, a senior litigator and firm manager, managed the lawyers involved in the representation of Mr. Andrews and benefitted from the receipt of the fees in question.
- 7. Because these circumstances give rise to a reasonable question as to the Justice's impartiality in this matter, he should be recused.
- 8. As further support for that contention, the Bureau notes that Justice Bassett served as lead counsel in <u>City of Concord v. State</u>, \_\_ N.H. \_\_, \_\_ A.3d \_\_ (Case No. 2011-462) (Aug. 31,

2012, mod. Sept. 28, 2012), which challenged the 2009 legislation that mandated increases in the public employers' contributions to the New Hampshire Retirement System. The LGC expended \$214,798 in support of the city's litigation. See Exhibit B at p.3, attached hereto. The LGC also provided valuable assistance to the Town of Canterbury in 2006, during Justice Bassett's tenure as a Canterbury selectman, for which assistance the Town specifically thanked Mr. Andrews and the LGC.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Hon. James Bassett recuse himself from this case.

Dated this 25th day of October, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

The State of New Hampshire, Bureau of Securities Regulation By its attorneys,

Michael A. Delaney

Attorney General.

Suzanne M. Gorman, No. 6572

Senior Assistant Attorney General

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Concord, NH 03301

603.271.3650

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Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.

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PO Box 1120

Manchester, NH 03104

603.623.8700

avolinsky@bernsteinshur.com

## **Certificate**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion to Recuse was provided to counsel of record for the Local Government Center, Inc. and its affiliates, Preti, Flaherty and Ramsdell Law Office by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 25th day of October, 2012.

Andru H. Volinsky, Esq.



One Bagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03802-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Facsimile 603-224-2318 www.oni-reno.com Tax ID #02-0279815

John B. Andrews

October 19, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 77243

Page: 1

For Professional services rendered Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al. 9/16/2011 MDR review petition; conference with 3.50 regarding left message for regarding 9/19/2011 MDR telephone call with 1.10 regarding reviewed exchanged emails with regarding 9/20/2011 ΙP reviewed report on BSR investigation; reviewed BSR notice of 2,20 order; preliminary research into 9/20/2011 MDR exchanged emails with regarding 4:60 worked on ; exchanged emails with Attorney Mitchell regarding appearance and filings; reviewed August report regarding LGC 9/21/2011 P researched whether 1.30 9/21/2011 MDR regarding exchanged emails with 0.20 9/22/2011 MDR reviewed amended motion for intervention 0.20 9/24/2011 IP researched whether 1,20 9/26/2011 MDR telephone call with 3.10 regarding email to regarding reviewed petition, motions to Intervene and 9/27/2011 JFL conference with 3.10 regarding ; reviewed pleadings; researched 9/27/2011 JP researched whether 1.30 9/27/2011 5.90 MDR telephone call with

Orr		

Page; 2

	:		
	1	reviewed petition and August 2011 report in	
		preparation for	
9/28/2011	JFL.	conference with	4.00
		regarding worked on objection	•
9/28/2011	$\mathbb{T}$	office conference with	1.40
	•		
9/28/2011	JP	prepared for meeting with client	1.00
9/28/2011	MDR	worked or call with regarding	1.10
	•	message for regarding same	
9/29/2011	JFL	continued drafting objection to intervention	5.00
9/29/2011	JP	prepared for client meeting; office conference with	4.40
		I to meeting with	
9/29/2011	MDR	prepare for and meet with	5.70
	·	regarding vielephone can and exchanged multiple emails with kregarding kregarding	
9/30/2011	JFL	continued drafting objection to intervention	3.50
9/30/2011	ŢΡ	reviewed	4.00
		; meeting with	
•	ı	to discuss to discuss	
9/30/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with the strength of the stre	4,30
-,,	.,,,,,,,,	review s regarding	4,50
		prepared for and attend	
	•	pre-structuring conference meeting among counsel to discuss	•
		issues; conference with conference with	
		regarding ; email to the direction of regarding	• •
•			

James F. Laboe	JPL,	15.60
Joshua Pantesco	JP	16.80
Michael D. Ramsdell	MDR	29.70

Total hours Legal Services 62.10

14,685.00

Orr & Reno

Page: 3

Disbursements on your behalf:

Computer Research

451.43

Total Disbursements

451.43

Total Legal Services and Disbursements Unpaid Prior Balance Total Now Due: 15,136.43 0.00 15,136.43

LGC General HTH 90% LGC 10%. Appland
by
Board
resolution
10-20-11

Orr&Reno

Professional Association
One Eagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302-3550
Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Facsimile 603-224-2318
www.orr-reno.com
Tax ID #02-0279815

John B. Andrews

October 19, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 77243

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Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

Total Legal Services and Disbursements

Unpaid Prior Balance

Total Now Due:

15,136,43

fer bd. Resolution



One Bagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Facsimile 603-224-2318 www.orr-reno.com Tax 1D #02-0279815

John B. Andrews

November 18, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 77878

Page: 1

For Professional services rendered Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al. 10/1/2011 MDR worked on objection to motions for intervention; email to 4,20 regarding 10/2/2011 MDR worked on Objection to Motions to Intervene; email to 2.10 regarding 10/3/2011 reviewed JP and offered comments to 0.30 10/3/2011 JP reviewed 1.50 10/3/2011 MDR worked on objection to motions to intervene, exhibit list and 6.60 witness list; prepared for preliminary hearing; reviewed LGC's objections to motions to intervene, exhibit list and witness list; reviewed SBR's motion to amend petition, witness list and exhibit list; email to regarding 10/4/2011 JP prepared 2.00 10/4/2011 MDR prepared for and participated in preliminary hearing; reviewed 4.80 BSR's objection to proposed structuring conference order; reviewed email regarding participated in conferences with counsel during break in hearing 10/5/2011 MDR participated in meet and confer regarding schedule and 2.60 discovery; conference with regarding reviewed exchanged emails with regarding 10/6/2011 JP reviewed pre-hearing order; searched for documents referenced 0.50 in paragraph J of pre-hearing order exchanged multiple emails with 10/6/2011 MDR regarding 4.10 regarding emails to worked on analysis of

Orr & Reno				Page: 2
10/7/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with counsel regarding clarification of order; email to Mr. Mitchell regarding same; reviewed SBR's October 2010 report	2.10	
10/10/2011	JP	reviewed order regarding immediate production and review of documents; drafted	1.30	
10/10/2011	MDR	exchanged emails wit regarding ; reviewed order on request for clarification	0.50	
10/11/2011	JP	worked or	0.40	
10/11/2011	MDR	reviewed  t, and worked on  email to  exchanged emails with  regarding  ; exchanged emails with  regarding  LCG's request for documents; reviewed BSR's motion to  disqualify counsel; exchanged emails with  regarding		
10/12/2011	JP	reviewed motion to determine status of counsel; legal analysis of	1.70	
10/12/2011	MDR	reviewed; worked on ; exchanged emails with regarding; reviewed LGC's objection to SBR's motion to to extend time to move to disqualify counsel; reviewed order regarding same; email to regarding	6.00	
10/13/2011	, JP	legal analysis of	1.60	•
10/13/2011	MDR	reviewed regarding reviewed regarding same; multiple telephone conferences with regarding same; telephone call and email exchange with regarding same; worked on letter to regarding same, regarding same, regarding same, regarding same regarding same regarding same regarding same regarding same and third document requests to BSR; telephone call with regarding same and	6.40	
10/16/2011	JP .	legal analysis of memorandum to file regarding	1.60	
10/17/2011	JP	memorandum to file regarding	0.80	÷
10/17/2011	MDR	reviewed most recent orders from Presiding Officer Mitchell; reviewed proposed	3.30	-

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Page: 3

Page: 4

10/28/2011 MDR exchanged emails with regarding 0.20

 Joshua Pantesco
 JP
 11.70
 200.00
 2,340.00

 Michael D. Ramsdell
 MDR
 83.70
 250.00
 20,925.00

 Total hours
 95.40

 Legal Services
 23,265.00

Disbursements on your behalf:

Computer Research79.07Computer Research3.25Computer Research57.73

Total Disbursements 140.05

Payments since last statement

10/31/2011 Paym

Payment

15,136.43

Sub-total Payments:

15,136.43

Total Legal Services and Disbursements Unpaid Prior Balance 23,405.05 0.00

Total Now Due:

23,405.05

307

\$15,000 only

Per Board

Note of

10-20-11

and entire bill.

Balonce To be
carried for Revolen
by Board at
menty in January for
reasonableness of Charge

John B. Andrews

November 18, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 77878

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Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

Total Legal Services and Disbursements

23,405.05

Unpaid Prior Balance

0.00

Total Now Due:

23,405.05

PI

# Orr&Reno

Professional Association

One Eagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Facsimile 603-224-2318

www.orr-reno.com Tax ID #02-0279815 Pay \$15,000
Bulance of 12,171.44
To be reviewd
by BOD Before
fayment per per to

December 7, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 78326

Page: 1

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John B. Andrews

For Professional services rendered

Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al. 11/2/2011 MDR exchange messages with 2.40 regarding ; exchange emails with regarding s; reviewed documents ; exchanged emails received from regarding 11/3/2011 MDR telephone call with 7.40 regarding prepared for and met with s; exchanged multiple emails with k regarding t; reviewed Staff Petition for ; telephone call with regarding ; multiple telephone conferences with and email exchanges with l regarding ; reviewed order denying motions to intervene; email to regarding 11/4/2011 MDR reviewed order regarding status of counsel; email to 0.40 regarding 11/5/2011 MDR reviewed BSR's letter to Presiding Officer Mitchell regarding 3.50 documents not produced; exchanged emails with regarding regarding e; email to ; reviewed ; email e; reviewed documents produced s regarding by LGC 11/6/2011 MDR reviewed Vaughn index to discovery received from LGC; email to 6.20 regarding reviewed BSR's response and objections to discovery requests; exchanged emails with regarding e; worked on letter to regarding regarding e; reviewed s; email to

		; commenced review of discovery produced by BSR	
11/7/2011	MDR		3.10
•		regarding ; telephone call regarding	
11/8/2011	MDR	reviewed ; letter	4.80
	•	to regarding ; telephone call with regarding	
		regarding ; reviewed	
		regarding same; exchanged emails with	
		regarding; reviewed emails regarding same	
11/9/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with	3.60
	•	; reviewed BSR's document production; reviewed BSR's motion to modify schedule	
11/10/2011	MDR	prepared for and attended informal conference with Presiding Officer Mitchell and counsel regarding discovery; email to	3.90
11/14/2011	MDR	reviewed order on discovery; email to regarding reviewed BSR's supplemental document production	2.50
11/15/2011	JP	reviewed	0.30
11/15/2011	MDR	reviewed LGC's and BSR's supplemental document	4.60
		production	
11/16/2011	JP	reviewed ; reviewed	2.40
11/16/2011	MDR	prepared for and attended meet and confer session regarding discovery; telephone call with	4.20
		reomerence with	
		regarding same	
11/17/2011	JP	prepared response to request for stipulation of facts	2.60
11/17/2011	MDR	reviewed	5.20
		email to regarding reviewed BSR's Vaughn index, document production and supplemental document production; worked on Motion to Compel Production of Witness Statements, Interviews and Summaries	

Orr & Reno				Page: 3
11/18/2011	JP	prepared response to request for stipulation of facts	1.60	
11/18/2011	MDR	reviewed discovery in preparation for discovery hearing; worked on Motion to Compel Production of Interviews, Statements and Summaries of Same; reviewed BSR's Motion to Compel Discovery; exchanged emails with regarding ; reviewed	5.10	
11/19/2011	MDR	reviewed BSR's and LGC's motion to compel production of documents; email to regarding; reviewed; reviewed; reviewed discovery responses in preparation for discovery hearing	4,40	
11/20/2011	JP	prepared response to request for stipulation of facts; prepared summary and analysis of	3.80	
11/20/2011	MDR	worked on Motion for More Definite Statement or for Clarification; reviewed cases submitted to Presiding Officer Mitchell regarding motions to compel production of documents	5.00	
11/21/2011	MDR	prepared for and attended hearing on pending motions; email to regarding reviewed documents and pleadings submitted by LGC and BSR at and immediately before hearing	6.90	
11/22/2011	JP	prepared summary and analysis of	1.00	•
11/22/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with the control of	7.20	·
11/23/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with regarding reviewed documents	0.70	
11/28/2011	JP	prepared summary and analysis	2.20	
11/28/2011	MDR	reviewed agenda for meet and confer, and email exchange	0.20	
11/29/2011	JP	legal analysis	5.00	
11/29/2011	MDR	worked on motion to dismiss counts 1, 2 and 4, and sections A, C and D of count 3 for	8.10	

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Orr & Reno Page: 4 ; reviewed BSR's supplemental memorandum of law regarding request for document production; attended meet and confer session; conference with regarding 0.50 JΡ legal analysis of 11/30/2011 0.60 11/30/2011 JP prepared motion for more definite statement with respect to securities claims 11/30/2011 MDR regarding 1.60 email to ; reviewed documents related to Joshua Pantesco ĮΡ 20.00 200.00 4,000.00 MDR 250.00 22,750.00 Michael D. Ramsdell 91.00 Total hours 111.80 Legal Services 26,750.00 Disbursements on your behalf: 68.18 Computer Research 291.78 Computer Research 61.48 Computer Research Total Disbursements 421.44 Payments since last statement 15,000.00 11/28/2011 Payment 15,000.00 Sub-total Payments: Total Legal Services and Disbursements 8,405.05 Unpaid Prior Balance 35,576.49 Total Now Due:

fer Bod Resolution

of 10-20-11

Balance to be reviewd by
Bod Before payment.



Professional Association

John B. Andrews

December 7, 2011 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 78326

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Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

Total Legal Services and Disbursements

27,171.44

Unpaid Prior Balance

8,405.05

Total Now Due:

35,576.49

One Eagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 Facsimile 603-224-2318

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John B. Andrews

Pt Pay only
\$15,000

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pall aptil
2318

Bot review

January 18, 2012 File # 013039-0001

Invoice # 79064

Page: 1

For Professional services rendered Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al. 12/1/2011 JP 6.00 researched reviewed BSR's memorandum of law regarding document 12/1/2011 MDR 2.60 production; reviewed Naylor case; reviewed ; reviewed discovery regarding issue of MDR exchanged emails with 12/2/2011 regarding 5.10 ; reviewed discovery most recently produced by BSR and LGC; telephone call with regarding email to regarding BSR's motion regarding additional discovery; reviewed 12/3/2011 JP researched 2.50 5.90 12/3/2011 MDR regarding worked on Respondent John Andrews' Notice of Withdrawal of Motion for More Definite Statement or for Clarification and Respondent John Andrews' Motion to Dismiss Him from Counts 1, 2 and 4; and Sections A, C and D of Count 3 ; reviewed BSR's response to motion-to-compel-and-cases-submitted-with-motion; reviewed-BSR's requests for findings 12/5/2011 JP 1.70 researched analysis of 2.30 12/5/2011 MDR reviewed pleadings filed by BSR and LGC and cases cited therein in preparation for discovery hearing or conference;

Orr & Reno				T 0
On a Reno				Page: 2
		reviewed most recent discovery produced by LGC		
12/6/2011	JP	reviewed pleadings recently filed by BSR and LGC; legal analysis of the state of th	3,50	
12/6/2011	JP	•	2.00	
12/0/2011	J¥	attended status conference and post-conference meet and confer [NO CHARGE]	3.00	
12/6/2011	MDR	worked on motion to dismiss fraud counts for telephone call with regarding	6.10	·
,		today's date; prepared for and attended discovery and scheduling conference with Presiding Officer Mitchell and counsel; conference with the regarding of the r		•
12/7/2011	JP	researched	2.00	
12/7/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with	5.20	
		regarding		
12/8/2011	JP	researched	1.00	
12/8/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with the regarding regarding; evaluated to the regarding regarding regarding regarding regarding	1.10	
12/9/2011	MDR	reviewed and a second second regarding	0.20	
12/11/2011	JP	researched	1.00	
12/12/2011	JP	researched	1.20	
12/12/2011	MDR	reviewed regarding; reviewed BSR's supplemental discovery	0.40	
12/13/2011	JP	researched; reviewed documents produced by LGC;	1.50	
12/13/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with regarding	0.20	
12/14/2011	JP	reviewed BSR order regarding on-site examination; telephone conference with the second state of the second	0.50	
12/14/2011	MDR	reviewed orders issued today; exchanged multiple emails with	1.00	

	Orr & Reno				Dogge 2
					Page: 3
	12/15/2011	JP	worked on answer to staff petition	3.00	
•	12/15/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with	0.30	
•	12/16/2011	MDR	exchanged emails with programme regarding regarding regarding regarding regarding regarding regarding regarding	0.40	
	12/18/2011	MDR	email to regarding; worked on motion for modification of Order on BSR Request for On-Site Examination	2.10	
	12/19/2011	JР	reviewed; reviewed scheduling order and order on request for on-site examination; legal analysis of	1,70	·
	12/19/2011	JP	attended meet-and-confer regarding on-site examination; [NO CHARGE]	2.00	
	12/19/2011	MDR	prepared for and attended conference regarding BSR's on-site inspection of LGC's records; conference with regarding ; conference with	5.40	
			conference with regarding ; worked on reviewed BSR's motion for protective order; worked on		÷
	12/20/2011	JP	meeting with to discuss issues telephone conference with regarding	0.80	
	12/20/2011	MDR	worked on response to BSR's motion for protective order; exchanged emails regarding regarding regarding	2.60	
			email to regarding regarding regarding		
	12/21/2011	MDR	reviewed multiple iterations of ; exchanged emails with regarding; exchanged multiple emails with regarding	1.10	
	12/22/2011	JР	worked on Motion to Modify Scheduling Order researched	1.70	
	12/22/2011	MDR	worked on Motion to Modify Scheduling Order; reviewed most recent discovery received from BSR; worked on Answer	4.60	
	12/23/2011	JР	prepared	2.00	

	Orr & Reno				Page: 4
,	12/23/2011	MDR	exchanged multiple emails with regarding worked on Answer to Staff Petition; reviewed Protective Order and revised scheduling order; email to regarding	3.30	
	12/24/2011	MDR	reviewed BSR's Motion to Extend Time to Conduct On-Site Examination and Objection to John Andrews' Motion to Dismiss; worked on Response to Motion to Extend Time to Conduct On-Site Examination	3.20	
	12/26/2011	JP	prepared ; additional research regarding ; reviewed	3.10	
	12/26/2011	MDR	email to regarding ; worked on Answer and Brief Statement of Defenses; email to regarding	7.00	
	12/27/2011	MTC	office conference with travel to LGC; observed BSR review of documents and questioning of LGC; office conference with regarding documents and questioning of LGC; office documents and questioning of LGC; office conference with regarding documents and questioning documents and	4.70	
	12/27/2011	JP	prepared	1.40	
	12/27/2011	JP	attended meet-and-confer [NO CHARGE]	2.40	
	12/27/2011	MDR	exchanged multiple emails with regarding n; email to regarding ; reviewed ; worked on motion to exclude or limit expert testimony; worked on analysis of prepared for and participated in hearing regarding motion to extend on-site examination	9.40	
	12/28/2011	JP	research at	2.40	
	12/28/2011	MDR	email to regarding; reviewed; worked; worked; worked on analysis of; telephone call with regarding; email to regarding	4.40	
	12/29/2011	WLC	reviewed Andrews motion to dismiss and Securities Bureau objection thereto	0.50	
	12/29/2011	JP	research and the second	2.60	
	12/29/2011	MDR	reviewed BSR's most recent document request; reviewed ; reviewed BSR's Motion for Clarification	5.30	
	•	·			

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Orr & Reno Page: 5 12/30/2011 MDR exchanged emails with 4.60 rëviewed telephone call with reviewed discovery in preparation for meeting with 12/31/2011 MDR 3.40 regarding William L. Chapman WLC 0.50 250.00 125.00 MTC Michael T. Cretella 4.70 200.00 940.00 Joshua Pantesco IP 7.40 0.00 0.00 Joshua Pantesco JP 200.00 39.60 7,920.00 Michael D. Ramsdell MDR 87.20 250.00 21,800.00 Total hours 139.40 Legal Services 30,785.00

Disbursements on your behalf:

Computer Research

449.59

Total Disbursements

449.59

Total Legal Services and Disbursements Unpaid Prior Balance Total Now Due:

31,234.59 35,576.49 66,811.08

\$ 15,000 per Bod Resolution Bod Resolution Balance of 16,234,59 to be Approval.

Professional Association

One Eagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Facsimile 603-224-2318

www.orr-reno.com Tax ID #02-0279815

John B. Andrews

January 18, 2012 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 79064

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Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

Total Legal Services and Disbursements

31,234.59

Unpaid Prior Balance

35,576.49

Total Now Due:

66,811.08



One Bayte Stuare, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NFI 03302-3550 Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Pacsimile 603-224-2318 www.on-reno.com Tax ID #02-0279816

John B. Andrews

February 10, 2012 File # 013039-0001 Invoice # 79518

Page: 1

For Professional services rendered Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al. 1/1/2012 MDR 6.00 reviewed discovery in preparation for meeting with regarding m 1/2/2012 prepared for and attended meeting with 4.50 (no charge) 1/2/2012 MDR prepared for and met with 8.20 regarding worked on Answer; exchanged emails with regarding. 1/3/2012 WLC began research of 1.10 1/3/2012 JP analysis of 4.90 1/3/2012 MDR reviewed discovery in preparation of meeting with 6.40 regarding reviewed Motion to Quash Subpoena 1/4/2012 JP reviewed 2.80 propared memorandum regarding same; propared memorandum regarding 1/4/2012 MDR reviewed orders issued by Presiding Officer; exchanged emails 1.20 regarding revlowed ĮΡ 1/5/2012 office conference with 2.50 ro charge) 1/5/2012 MDR prepared for and participated in 6.10

; reviewed

Page: 2

Page: 3

Orr & Reno	<b>)</b>						Page: 5
1/31/2012	JDE	reviewed motion to	dismiss and	added chang	ges and sugges	itions 1.00	<i>\delta</i> .
1/31/2012		reviewed and ravise analysis of memorandum to memorandum to			iss count 2; leg		
1/31/2012	MDR	worked on motion is with	; re	; exchange regardi	ed multiple em ing nents in prepa regarding	ration	·
	William L. Jeremy D. E Bonnie B. P Joshua Pan Joshua Pan Michael D.	ggleton ackard tesco tesco	WLC JDB BBP JP JP MDR	2.80 16.50 1.50 10.30 40.00 137.50	250.00 200.00 85.00 0.00 200.00 250.00	700,00 3,300,00 127,50 0,00 8,000,00 34,375,00	
					Total hou	ırs	208.60
					Legal Ser	vices	46,502,50
Disbursem	ents on you				•		
		examination of book	e & records	of LGC -One	eite exami	nation	140.00
		LGC examination &	report				385,00
		Copies -legislat	dve hilst	ory mater	cials		87.25
		Copies - Legisalat					20.00
		BSR monitoring & re			•	1on	802.50
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Total Dis	bursements	1 <u>.434.75</u>

Total Legal Services and Disbursements Unpaid Prior Balance Total Now Due: 47,937.25 66,811,08 114,748,33



One Hagle Square, P.O. Box 3550, Concord, NI4 03302-3550
Telephone 603-224-2381 \* Pacsimile 603-224-2318
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John B. Andrews

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Re: In the Matter of: Local Government Center, Inc., et al.

Total Legal Services and Disbursements

Unpaid Prior Balance

Total Now Due;

66,81T.08

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# Retirement Litigation Overview

Many questions have come in to NHMA staff seeking information about the effect of the variety of law suits against the State and the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). We have prepared this short overview of the litigation and will update it periodically to keep members informed.

Our advice at this time relative to levels of withholding and contribution payments is to follow the directives of the NHRS. Should any adjustments be required as a result of litigation, the NHRS will make those recalculations and issue notice to employers.

## Background

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the State budget deliberations drew the attention of municipal officials concerned with retirement reform and, in particular, employer contributions for teachers, police and firefighters. Many municipalities adopted their budgets under the assumption that the legislature would continue funding at least 25 percent of employer contributions, the figure for fiscal year 2011. Instead, the budget that passed without the Governor's signature eliminated State funding almost entirely, and NHRS announced dramatically increased rates for monthly employer contributions that reflected the loss of State support. Learn more at the NHRS website.

At the same time, however, the legislature had taken other steps in the budget trailer bill, HB2, enacted as Chapter 224, that could keep employer contribution rates at approximately the same levels as would prevail with 25 percent State funding. Member contributions were increased, and Section 188 directs the NHRS board of trustees to recalculate and recertify the previously determined employer contribution rates "to reflect the requirements of amendments to RSA 100-A in the 2011 legislative session," using the demographic and economic assumptions as disclosed in the June 30, 2010 valuation by the NHRS actuary. The Board recertified the rates effective August 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

## **Recent Litigation**

Within days of passage of HB 2, two lawsuits were filed against the State, challenging the constitutionality of these measures.

NHRS Suit. One suit was filed by NHRS itself, alleging that Chapter 224 usurps the board's authority and requires "unsound actuarial practice" in violation of New Hampshire Constitution, Part 1, Article 36-a. The plaintiff sought a preliminary injunction to prevent implementation of the measures in Chapter 224. In a hearing in Merrimack County Superior Court on July 14, 2011, Judge McNamara declined to grant a preliminary injunction. Subsequently, in a non-public session on September 13, 2011, the NHRS Board of Trustees voted not to pursue this lawsuit.

'Retirement Security Coalition' Suit. The second suit, brought by a coalition of four public employee unions representing firefighters, police, teachers and State employees, makes the same claim under Part 1, Article 36-a as the NHRS suit. The unions' suit also claims that the legislation increasing employee contribution rates violates the employees' alleged constitutionally protected contractual vested right to enjoy all the retirement benefits in place at the time they commenced their employment. This suit also requested a preliminary injunction to prevent increasing the employee contributions, but again Judge McNamara denied the request in a hearing on the same day—July 14, 2011.

A superior court hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2011.

## **Earlier Litigation**

The unions' suit to strike down increases to member contribution rates is actually the fourth suit in recent years in which active and retired public employees have attacked retirement reforms as a violation of their constitutionally protected vested rights allegedly set forth as a contract in the terms of a retirement statute. The unions claim that earlier rulings of the New Hampshire Supreme Court have already held that RSA 100-A and other retirement statutes confer vested rights on a public employee to enjoy the benefits in place on the first day of permanent employment. The contrary view is that the Court has not in fact ruled on the issue yet, and such claims should be analyzed consistent with a line of federal cases that recognize a strong presumption against establishing contractual vested rights by statute, known as the "unmistakability doctrine."

**SEA v. State.** In the first case, the Supreme Court held that the automatic deduction of health care premiums from pension payments did not substantially impair the retirees' vested rights to a full pension. The ultimate issue was not reached. *State Employees' Assoc. of N.H. v. State of New Hampshire*, No. 2010-271, April 14, 2011.

Cloutier. Oral arguments were head in the Supreme Court on August 26, 2011. In this case, retired judges claim that statutory changes to their anticipated pension benefits made in 2003, after they became full-time judges, violate their contractual and constitutionally protected vested rights. Cloutier et al. v. State of New Hampshire et al., No. 2010-0714. This case deals with the Judicial Retirement System, not NHRS, so it remains to be seen if the ruling will affect amendments to RSA 100-A. Under the "unmistakability doctrine," each statute should be scrutinized to determine whether it expresses a contract, notwithstanding the presumption that it does not. LGC filed amicus curiae briefs in both the SEA and Cloutier cases.

AFT. The third case, American Federation of Teachers-New Hampshire et al.v. State of New Hampshire et al., originally filed in August 2009, remains pending in Merrimack County Superior Court, No. 09-E-0290. In this case, the plaintiffs attack reforms enacted in 2009 that amend the definition of "earnable compensation" and eliminate cost-of-living adjustments. These claims go to the heart of the legislature's ability to reform RSA 100-A.

28-A Unfunded Mandate. A Supreme Court appeal has been taken in the lawsuit challenging the 2009 legislation that mandated increases in the public employer contributions to the NHRS. The suit, filed on behalf of more than 300 municipalities, school districts and counties, with the City of Concord, Mascenic Regional School District and Belknap County as named plaintiffs, asserts that by reducing the State's contribution from 35 percent to 25 percent—and thus increasing the local government contribution from 65 percent to 75 percent—the State violated Part 1, Article 28-a, of the New Hampshire Constitution, which prohibits unfunded state mandates. A superior court judge ruled in favor of the State, and the plaintiffs appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Both sides have filed briefs, and oral argument is likely to be scheduled in the winter or early spring 2012.

As developments occur, we will update this posting, so check back periodically. Please do not hesitate to contact the <u>Legal Services</u> and <u>Government Affairs</u> Department by email or at 800.852.3358, ext. 3408 if you have additional questions.

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